The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Affectation is the product of falsehood.—Carlyle.

WHOLE NO. 1022. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1930 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 35.

"POLICE POWER OF STATE" IS UNLIMITED

The Oklahoma Supreme Court upheld regulation of oil output by a state commission on the ground that such action is under the police power of the state.

The decision is another reminder of this sweeping power that permits states and their administrators to adopt new methods to meet public needs and necessities.

Police power is not written law. It is no part of a state constitution. It is inherent in a sovereign state, just as memory, understanding and will are inseparably attached to normal man.

This police power is rarely discussed by citizens, who too often are unaware of their power to shape and mold a state. These citizens expect public officials to act, and the latter are willing that the fiction be continued.

The officials, as a rule, maintain the status quo, while assuring the public that they are "studying the question."

Practically no social legislation is impossible under the police power of the state. It can, as the Oklahoma Supreme Court declares, "adjust itself to the necessities of moral, sanitary, economic and political conditions" of a people.

This change is illustrated by Oklahoma need for special changes.

POLICE POWER IS POPULAR FORCE; NO LIMIT TO ITS INTELLIGENT USE

The police power is an attribute of sovereignty, inherent in every sovereign state, and not derived from any written constitution, nor vested by grant of any superior power.

The term "police power" comprehends the power to make and enforce all wholesome and reasonable laws and regulations necessary to the maintenance, upbuilding and advancement of the public weal and protection of the public interests.

It is plastic in its nature and will expand to meet the actual requirements of an advancing civilization and adjust itself to the necessities of moral, sanitary, economic and political conditions.

No principle in our system of government will limit the right of government to respond to public needs and protect the public welfare.—Oklahoma

telling oil well owners how much petroleum they may produce—a procedure undreamed of a decade ago.

The police power of the state, for instance, permits a state to take drastic action on unemployment. When a person says a thing can't be done under this government theory he confesses ignorance of our system or he seeks an alibi for inaction.

New suggestions, however, will not be accepted without a struggle. Persistent effort is necessary to compel acceptance of new viewpoints—these are the last thing a people will accept. Long agitation and ecnomic necessity are the invincible powers that must be placed behind advanced social thought.

Every member of organized labor should realize that the police power of the state can be extended to undreamed lengths whenever public opinion is aroused to the needs for social changes.

WILL STABILIZATION HELP?

Stabilization schemes are based on less workers.

Where an employe, by speed up methods, can do the work of two men, this is called "elimination of waste." The social effect is ignored.

Theoreticians insist that if output is stabilized—if production is based on day-by-day consumption—prices will be reduced and greater consumption and more work will result.

Stabilization advocates do not point out that scientific processes, automatic machinery and speed up methods are continuous. These processes enlarge the unemployed army and reduce the number of buyers.

The job seeker is not interested in prices. He wants work to secure purchasing power to take advantage of lower prices.

President Green reminds stabilizers that higher wages will permit disposition of output and shorter hours will lessen unemployment. If these facts are ignored, the forces that brought the present crisis will develop another.

Stabilization is a phase of the movement toward automatic machinery, scientific processes, chain stores, mergers and a general lessening of employment.

Stabilization and relief for unemployed are opposites.

DANVILLE STRIKE NOT SPECTACULAR

The strike of 4,500 Danville textile workers against wage cuts, speed-ups and the mill owners' "industrial democracy" is not spectacular. It has no "news" value because the strike has taken the form of a determined seige.

The underlying cause of this strike can not be removed by flash headlines. If the workers lose, an alleged "industrial democracy" will be forced upon them. Their success, however, will affect the entire South.

There is more involved in this strike than wages and working conditions. The workers are fighting against a paternalism that reaches into their individual lives.

Great fundamental struggles, such as is now on in Danville, are not spectacular. No worker should ignore the far-reaching consequences of this strike because it lacks "news" value, as understood by the daily press.

FINE TEXTILE MILL IGNORED WORKERS

Danville, Va., Nov. 8.—Every element in the manufacture of textile—but human beings—was reckoned with by the Riverside and Dan River Cotton Mills Company, whose 4,500 employes are on strike against a company "union," speed-ups and wage cuts.

These mills are complete. The company does its own bleaching, dyeing, finishing and selling. The mills, from a technical standpoint, are in the first class.

The same mechanical method was applied to labor. The human element was lacking, and these magnificent properties are tied up by a strike that has brought ill will and social strife.

The strike was forced on men who lack common sense—to men who believe that their attempt to control the lives of workers is sufficient excuse for wage reductions and speed-up methods.

The company "union," known as "industrial democracy," has been wrecked and the elaborate system, established by the World War, and which was a model for other anti-union employers, is scorned by workers.

The "industrial democracy" claimed to follow the Federal Government plan, in that the company's senate is appointed by the management, while the United States Senate is elected by the people. The mill's house of representatives was chosen by workers, and the senate and cabinet were selected by mill owners. A proposal had to receive a majority vote in each of the three bodies. The proposal could then be vetoed by the president of the company.

This so-called "industrial democracy," together with cheap house rent and welfare work, was a substitute for wages and a defense of speed-up systems.

The plan collapsed. The mills are in the hands of incompetents and strikebreakers, while textile workers are on the streets because they reject the latest set up of autocracy.

ONE-SIXTH OF U. S. POPULATION FACE ACUTE NEED THIS WINTER

Washington, Nov. 8.—Employment has not improved since September, according to trade union reports received by Wm. Green, president A. F. of L. He said one-sixth of our population are threatened this winter with acute need from unemployment.

"Employment made no further gains in October," said Mr. Green. "Trade union reports from 24 cities show 21 per cent still out of work, as in September.

"The very large number out of work on the threshold of winter is cause for concern. Last winter's unemployed, as indicated by our figures, increased 71 per cent from October to January and doubled by February. Winter before last, when conditions were unusually favorable, out-of-works increased 47 per cent from October to February.

"Wage earners this year have no reserves to fall back on. Savings have been exhausted in the hard struggle for the past year.

"If all groups wholeheartedly join in the movement to provide jobs and relief, unemployment can be largely conquered. We must visualize the danger ahead and face the problem. The government officially estimates the unemployed at 3,500,000. An increase of unusual proportions would bring the number well over 5,000,000. Including the families depending on these men and women, over 20,000,000, or one-sixth of our entire population, are threatened with acute need from unemployment this winter.

"In addition to these entirely out of work, millions more are unemployed part time. Our figures for trade union members, who probably suffer less than any others from 'unemployment within employment,' show that 15 per cent were working part time in October. This means serious reductions in income and buying power."

Idle Cause Must Be Reached; Temporary Relief No Solution

Washington, Nov. 8.—Unemployment relief plans now being discussed will prove helpful but they do not touch the cause of present conditions, declares the Monthly Survey of Business, issued by A. F. of L.

"Unless wages increase with increasing productivity, there are not enough buyers to dispose of the output," the Bulletin states. "Unless work hours are shortened, workers are laid off to increase the pools of surplus labor. Unless there is a substantial responsibility on the part of management to work out provisions for security of employment and income, we shall again be forced to meet unemployment in crisis.

"Wherever unemployment committees are at work they are having to apply these fundamentals: 1. Hours are shortened to create more jobs. 2. Wages must be maintained to preserve buying power. 3. To provide jobs, pay wages is better than to give straight relief."

The Monthly Survey refers to Standard Statistics' estimate that workers' incomes have been reduced 20 per cent since last, year because of unemployment, part time unemployment and wage cuts. This means a total loss of nearly $9,000,000 a year to labor.

"No wonder workers cannot buy the luxuries' products which keep our industries busy," says the Monthly Bulletin.

"The average workers' income was reduced $120 a year. Cost of living has not declined enough to compensate this loss. Income has declined 20 per cent, while cost of living is only 6 per cent below last year."

Five Thousand Full Time Workers Could Be Used In Postal Service

Washington, Nov. 8.—"The postal service could absorb at least 5,000 additional employes," declared Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary-treasurer National Federation of Post Office Clerks.

"The service is undermanned, especially distribution forces in the large offices," said Mr. Flaherty. "These workers are forced to labor under speed-up systems that extend them beyond reasonable limits. The Post Office Department has survey inspectors hanging into effect petty economy practices that are harmful to service morale and are responsible for a curtailment of service to the public and the elimination of work opportunities for thousands of substitutes.

"Through its failure to fill vacancies as they should be filled, the Post Office Department has increased the unemployed and added to the burdens of employed. This policy is harmful to regular employes, the substitutes and the public.

"The Postmaster General has determined to fought legislation pending in Congress to shorten the postal 48-hour working week to 44 hours," said Mr. Flaherty.

"If our proposal for shorter working hours had not been fought last winter by Mr. Brown, the postal employment situation today would be much better."

The department's recent order giving substitutes preference in overtime work is "empty gesture," according to the trade union official.

"The order relieving regular employes from overtime was widely heralded as helping the present unemployment crisis. The facts are that the only persons affected by overtime are the distributors and they are excluded from the scope of the order," said Mr. Flaherty.

"If the government wants to set an example to private industry, it should at once discontinue the practice of requiring one postal worker to do the work of two men. Thousands of veteran clerks are compelled to study distribution schemes on their own time at home—after working eight hours at the office—instead of putting substitutes on these duties under an apprenticeship system. The apparent sole aim of the postal administrators is to cut the postal pay roll regardless of its effect on the men or the service."

HARD TIMES TRACED TO SURPLUS; LIVING STANDARDS SHOULD GO UP

By JULIUS H. BARNES
President National Business Survey Conference

Gradually the conviction seems to be taking root that the economic nightmare that is troubling the dream of business is the surplus.

The assurance that the world by and large is confronted with an abundance rather than a scarcity, that the privation and want that hovered in the wake of the war, when staple commodities were scanty enough to be regarded as luxuries, have been banished might be theoretically comforting, but it brings little solace to the millions of unemployed and other millions whose incomes have been curtailed. Whether production has forged too far ahead or consumption has lagged too far behind, the economic effect on the individual is equally disconcerting.

To the economists consumption and production may be distinct forces. To the greater part of the world's population that must work for its living, the one is inseparable from the other. It matters little which is the source of the stagnation which overtakes business activity.

Manufacturing is giving more and more attention to that vague and vacillating composite we designate as the standard of living and to the making of things that will fit into this changing pattern of existence.

But industry in general has far to go in this direction before it will attain that desirable balance which is at the bottom of prosperity.

WANTS BEST DOCTORS TO TREAT WORKERS

New York, Nov. 8.—The best professional talent in medicine, surgery and compensation cases was recommended by a committee representing the Academy of Medicine.

To avoid personal misunderstandings, arbitrations, adjustments and bickerings between insurance companies, the physician or surgeon in charge of the case, it was recommended, should be the sole judge of the necessity for calling the necessity of consultations, X-rays and clinical tests.

The doctor's or nurse's decisions be left to insurance carriers, with the exception of emergency cases, is basically unsound, as medicine and surgery can not be considered on a turnover standpoint," said the committee.

"The word 'emergency,' in so far as medicine or surgery is concerned, is elastic and would result in continued disputes and would probably not inure in practice for the benefit of the patient."

NEW WAR IN TEN YEARS, SAYS BRITISH GENERAL

New York, Nov. 8.—The youth of the world must be educated to the futility of war, or another outbreak is certain within ten years, said General Frank P. Crozier, British military leader, in an address at Carnegie Hall.

The generation leaving school at the end of the next decade will have no contact with war nor any memory of the last conflict, General Crozier said. If attempts are made then to preach the necessity of ending war by them they will be without effect because that generation will be unable to realize the meaning of such a doctrine.

"The cause must be pushed now while the memory of war is still with us," he said. "The world today is full of dangerous deception. The diplomats of the world are playing with international radio messages full of back-patting. Meanwhile the competitive armament programs are going forward.

"World leaders are congratulating each other on the outcome of the London conference, but to me the conference was a disappointment. It almost dashed my hopes for peace to the ground."

HOMELESS ON BOWERY FOUND NATIVE BORN

New York, Nov. 8.—The homeless man on the Bowery, New York's Mecca for the down-and-outer, is in most instances a native American past 40 years of age, unskilled, unmarried and unemployed.

These findings are reported by the Welfare Council of New York, after 14,000 men were questioned. The survey was made in one night by 300 social workers, students and other volunteers.

There were 10,348 unskilled laborers among the 14,000. More than 10,000 were native born, 20 per cent came from Northern and Eastern Europe and 15 per cent from the British Isles.

LAND PRICES DROP

Frankfort, Ky., Nov. 8.—Farm deflation since the World War is revealed in a study by the University of Kentucky. Examination of 1,107 men, all but 16 being farmers, showed that they bought and sold land during the post-war period and were worth an average of $18,179 in 1918. Ten years later they were worth $4,544.

WOMEN GIVEN MEN'S JOBS; WAGES BELOW LIVING LINE

Washington, Nov. 8.—Employers who substitute women for men at a lower wage are making possible a continuance of the depression, according to the United States Women's Bureau.

The people's purchasing power should be increased, and not lessened, said the bureau, who pointed to the shortsightedness of these employers who are using a "two-edged sword" by employing women who are forced to accept wages that are below the living line.

The bureau refers to its oft-repeated statement that working women are not receiving a living wage and that there is no truth in the claim that most of these women work for "pin money." It is shown, on the contrary, that the vast majority of these women must not only finance themselves, but they must contribute to family support.

"All wage studies made by the Women's Bureau stress the outstanding fact that the great majority of women in industry fail to receive earnings adequate to cover the bare essentials for even the individual.

"Take the figures in a Women's Bureau analysis of the earnings of 149,000 white women in 2,379 factories, stores and laundries in 15 States—Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Tennessee—surveyed in the period from 1920 to 1928.

"Using as a measure the median of week's earnings—which means that one-half the women earned more and one-half earned less than the amount —we find that 13 of the States showed Indiana below $15 and eight of these States a median of less than $12.

"The highest minimum wage rate for experienced adult workers in effect for industrial and mercantile establishments in the United States today is the California rate of $16 a week. This means yearly earnings of only $832 a week, with employment every week, which is a rare condition. Wages below these figures look satisfactory on paper would soon discover, in trying to live on such a sum, just what the pinch of poverty means.

"Equal to the magician who produces rabbits from a silk hat are the efforts of those who think that $850 a year can secure the various items considered essential in an individual's living—food, lodging, clothing, car fare, laundry recreation, insurance, savings and allowance for such things as vacation, church, doctor's and dentist's and oculist's bills, and self-improvement just to the extent of purchasing newspapers, and also try to have something left over for dependents.

"Don't brush aside the problem by suggesting that most women reside at home and do not need a living wage. Plenty of convincing evidence is available in Women's Bureau reports to prove that the vast majority of women wage earners must not only finance themselves but contribute to family support. Therefore, the number of women workers in industry, living at or below the poverty line, is relatively large."

WOMEN WORK FAVORED BY CHILD COMMITTEE

Washington, Nov. 8.—Working mothers were approved by Dr. Louise Stanley, chairman of the Committee on the Family, in her report to the White House child conference.

Dr. Stanley discussed various factors that threaten the American home, but O. K.'d the wife and mother working outside the home "if she can earn enough to pay for the goods or services she would produce in the home and get more enjoyment in this outside work."

The committee approved the home maker who is well prepared outside the home, with this important qualification: Provided she knew its quality and composition."

Dr. Stanley admitted that statistics on the decline in the marriage, divorce and proportion of births to population seem to indicate family disintegration, but she found family life worth saving.

The home researchers discovered increased tendency toward city life, growth of apartments and flats, less space per person, less family entertaining, more dependency on outside amusements, and children and the cost of a child increased.

The committee doubted whether any other agency than the home can furnish "personality factors" necessary in a family life, but mother and wife can work outside the home providing they "enjoy" it.

SURPLUS BLAMED FOR EXPORT DROP

Washington, Nov. 8.—Too much production is the cause of less exports, according to Wm. L. Cooper, director Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce.

"Overproduction is the one out-of-standing reason why our trade in foreign markets has sagged," said Mr. Cooper.

"During 1929 there was a world-wide overproduction of the leading staples, such as wheat, cotton, coffee, sugar, wool, copper, coal, oil and silver and in consequence large stocks accumulated.

"The necessity for disposing of these stocks caused many to sell at low prices. A gradual price decline does not dislocate business, but a sharp fall means that producers have to sell at a heavy loss. This is exactly what happened in 1929.

"Before the world purchasing power can be restored, it will be necessary to correct the conditions which have been responsible."

LABOR LAW DECISION REVERSED BY COURT

Lansing, Mich., Nov. 8.—The State Supreme Court reversed its decision in the case of Richards versus Rogers Boiler Company which held that when an injured employe had given a final settlement receipt the State Department of Labor and Industry lost jurisdiction over the case.

Attorney General Brucker secured a re-hearing and personally argued the case before the Supreme Court. He was successful in impressing the court with the far-reaching effect of its decision, which prohibited the state from passing upon the sufficiency of an injury settlement.

WILL LIMIT OIL OUTPUT

Oklahoma City, Nov. 8.—The State Corporation Commission ordered Oklahoma oil production limited to approximately 850,000 barrels daily. The commission said that the nation has a potential production capacity of 10,000,000 barrels daily and that this is balanced against a current demand of 2,800,000 barrels for consumption and export. Stocks of petroleum in the country, asserted the commission, aggregate more than 685,000,000 barrels, "which stocks are excessive and beyond the needs of the industry."

OPERATORS LOCKED OUT

Los Angeles, Cal., Nov. 8.—Moving picture operators in two local houses were forced on the street. Strong anti-union forces in this city are behind the managers, it is stated.

TEXTILE WAGE CUTS FORCED ON WORKERS

Philadelphia, Nov. 8.—Textile manufacturers are using the old scheme of preaching the value of high wages while slashing low-ering rates.

In various types of local plants pay slashes range from 15 to 30 per cent. Carpet and woolen, upholstery fabrics and dye houses have been affected.

"A comparatively small number of employes have been it by these wage cuts, but the movement is a 'try out' for a general wage cut," said a trade union official.

LEADING AUTO CONCERN HAS WIDE INTERESTS

New York, Nov. 8.—General Motors Corporation, from the standpoint of earnings, has become the largest corporation in the world, according to a historical review of this concern by the banking house of Spencer, Trask & Co.

The corporation produces eight different grades of autos and supplies most of its own parts and accessories, through ownership of companies producing Fisher bodies, Delco-Remy lighting and ignition systems, Hyatt roller bearings, New Departure brakes and ball bearings, Klaxon horns and AC spark plugs.

General Motors also manufacture Frigidaire refrigerators, has a half interest with Standard Oil of New Jersey in Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, a 51 per cent interest in General Motors Radio Corporation, a 25 per cent interest in Bendix Aviation Corporation, a 40 per cent interest in Fokker Aircraft Corporation and ownership of the Allison Engineering Company, manufacturers of aeroplane motors.

General Motors also has an 80 per cent interest in Adam Opel of Germany, which produces 40 per cent of the German automobiles.

CHARITY WORK COSTS REVEAL UPWARD TREND

Washington, Nov. 8.—The cost for family relief work is upward, according to the United States Children's Bureau.

Monthly relief nearly doubled in 15 cities during December, 1929, when approximately $1,000,000 was spent by public and private welfare agencies. In January, this year, 19 cities showed a 48.6 per cent increase, compared with January, 1929.

TRAIN TRAVEL SAFEST

Boston, Nov. 8.—Riding in a train is 13 times as safe as riding in an automobile, according to the Governor's Committee on Street and Highway Safety. A ride in a street car is 22 times safer than in a motor vehicle, said the committee.

These figures are the result of a study of nation-wide accident statistics.

BUILDING WRECKED BY ESCAPING GAS

Los Angeles, Cal., Nov. 8.—Anti-unionists are forced to abandon their claim that "labor troubles" is responsible for the explosion of the Garment Capitol building, in which 60 persons were injured.

Chief Ralph Scott of the fire department reports that a leaking gas pipe is responsible, and other fire authorities take the same position.. Organized cloakmakers are on strike against firms that were housed in the building, and hostile newspapers guardedly connected the strike with the explosion. They failed to mention, however, that more than 200 union cloakmakers were employed in the building and that 14 of these workers were seriously injured.

A committee appointed by the central body compiled these facts and made them a public document.

UNION MEETINGS BANNED

Lansdale, Pa., Nov. 8.—Organized hosiery workers are not permitted to call union meetings in this borough.

Mills lowered wages and installed speed-up systems. The unionists attempted to assist victimized workers, but town authorities threatened arrest. The unionists were classed as "racketeers" by the village Sherlock Holmes.

STOCK FRAUD LOSSES TOTAL MANY MILLIONS

New York, Nov. 8.—Citizens of this state will lose $11,765,000 in stock frauds during October, according to the State Bureau of Securities.

So far this year total losses to investors and others exceed $50,000,000.

TO UNITE TEACHERS

San Francisco, Nov. 8.—The California Federation of Labor has lined up behind the movement to organize public school teachers in this state.

City central bodies, the labor press and other agencies are asked to aid this campaign.

BUTCHERS HOLD LINE

Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 8.—The Butchers' Union renewed their agreement with independent merchants and chain stores.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Boise, Idaho, Nov. 8.—The annual convention Idaho Federation of Labor will convene in this city Monday, December 8.

REDS BREAK PLEDGE; PROMISE VALUELESS

London, England, Nov. 8.—The British Labor government acknowledged in the House of Commons that the Russian government is violating its pledge not to spread Soviet propaganda in this country.

Foreign Secretary Arthur Henderson, in reply to questions, said that he had protested to the Russian ambassador in London.

The Russian pleaded his government can not control the "Third International" which is responsible for this agitation, although Communist government officials also serve as officials of the "Third Internationale."

BILLION DOLLAR CLUB OWNS NATION'S WEALTH

Chicago, Nov. 8.—Twenty-four corporations own 12 per cent of the nation's wealth, according to a statistical study by the Standard American Corporation.

In 1919 these corporations, with combined assets of $10,847,000,000, were eligible to the "Billion Dollar Club."

Membership, however, has increased, and now there are 24 eligible corporations with combined assets of more than $40,885,000,000. The list includes seven railroad systems, five public utilities, five banks, three insurance companies, the steel trust, General Motors and Standard Oil of New Jersey.

DANVILLE HALLOWE'EN WAS SLEEPY AFFAIR

Danville, Va., Nov. 8.—The downtown section of this city was given the low-down on Hallowe'en when it was lowe'en by striking textile workers and sympathizers.

The police department, fearful that depredations would be committed by strikers, prohibited masking on the streets.

The order turned Danville's business section into a dismal village. Workers and sympathizers stayed at home. Milk pickets warmed the night away beside their campfires and policemen twiddled their thumbs.

Theaters and soft-drink places closed early for lack of customers and masked gaiety.

ORDER BOOKBINDERS ELECT

Washington, Nov. 8.—President John B. Haggerty and all vice presidents were re-elected by the referendum held by Brotherhood of Bookbinders. Secretary-Treasurer Felix Belair is succeeded by J. B. Prewitt of Kansas City, Mo. The new officials have four-year terms.

GERMAN WORKERS HIT FORCED ARBITRATION

Berlin, Germany, Nov. 8.—More than 100,000 striking metal workers forced the government to abandon its compulsory arbitration and reinstate old wage rates, accepted voluntary arbitration and returned to work at former wages that were reduced by government arbitrators.

NEW COMPENSATION AWARD

Oklahoma City, Nov. 8.—An employe who was given a day with pay to move from one lease of the employer to another and who was injured while unloading his tent from his truck in the course of moving, has been held by the State Supreme Court to have sustained an accidental injury and is entitled to compensation.